



Roane County Joint Information Center Kingston Ash Release

Press Release Number 010, 05 Jan 2009

Additional Water Sample Results Indicate Municipal Drinking Water Continues to be Safe Well Sample Results to Date Meet Safe Drinking Water Standards

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Tennessee Valley Authority continue to be involved with sampling activities at and around the Kingston coal ash slide site. All results from each agency have consistently indicated that municipal drinking water supplies are safe. An overview of each agency's more recent data follows.

TDEC Activity Update

- The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has received the most recent sample data for the Kingston and Rockwood water treatment plants. Drinking water samples collected Jan. 2 and Jan. 3 were within drinking water standards, indicating both municipal water supplies are safe.
- The department continues to sample private drinking water wells within a four-mile radius of the site for heavy metals. Results for 22 wells came back and all were within safe drinking water standards. Anyone in a four-mile radius of the plant who would like their well tested may call the Department of Environment and Conservation's Knoxville Field Office at 865-594-6035 or toll free at 888-891-8332.
- The department collected river water samples on Friday. Those results will be posted when they are received from the lab.
- Department personnel were in the field today identifying sample locations for ash and soil from the affected area. Sample collection will begin as quickly as weather conditions allow.

Results from the department's sampling activities, along with other information related to response to the coal ash slide, is available at www.tn.gov/environment. This site will continue to be updated with new results and other information as it is available.

EPA Activity Update

- EPA has taken approximately 100 readings for particulate matter at nine locations with hand held instruments. To date, there have been no exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- From Dec. 28 to 30, EPA re-sampled the Clinch, Tennessee, and Emory Rivers. Two out of 16 samples taken on the water had measurements in excess of the Tennessee Water Quality Criteria for Domestic Supply. The results indicate a decrease in previously detected compounds (arsenic and total suspended solids from the December 23rd sampling event).

- EPA collected four residential soil samples and five samples in public areas. None of the values exceeded EPA Region 4's Removal Action Level. RALs identify contaminant levels at which time critical response actions may be required.
- EPA characterized the ash at the top of the cell. Samples of ash deposited on the roadway near the site were consistent with ash constituents measured in the cell and indicated arsenic levels exceeding RALs. EPA is working with TVA and TDEC on the development of a sampling plan to characterize potential arsenic contamination on residential properties.
- EPA continues to review TVA data and monitor response activities.
- EPA is posting data as it becomes available at www.epaossc.org/doc_list.asp?site_id=4642

TVA Activity Update

- TVA continues to assist residents affected by the incident and has scheduled meetings with area residents to answer their questions and listen to their concerns.
- Area residents who need an assessment of property damages should call 865-632-1700.
- TVA has opened an Outreach Center at 509 North Kentucky Street in Kingston. The center will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- All other members of the public should continue to use 865-717-4006 for any questions or concerns.

There will not be a Unified Command press briefing on Tuesday, January 6, 2009.

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